

Message Text

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UNCLAS. JULY 19. AP STORY FILED FROM SAN SALVADOR TODAY BY LOCAL AP STRINGER EDUARDO VASQUEZ BECKER QUOTES PRESIDENT CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO EXTENSIVELY REGARDING POLITICAL TERRORISM AND RELATIONS WITH CATHOLIC CHURCHES. STORY APPEARED TODAY'S AFTERNOON PRESS. TRANSLATED TEXT FOLLOWS:

SAN SALVADOR, JULY 18 (AP). THE PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR, CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMEROL, REFERRING TO THE ASSASSINATION OF EX-PRESIDENT OSMIN AGUIRRE Y SALINAS, SAID THAT HE CONDEMNS THE USE OF VIOLENCE "FROM WHEREVER IT MAY COME, SINCE IT IS NO SOLUTION FOR EL SALVADOR OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD." EX-PRESIDENT OSMIN AGUIRRE Y SALINAS, 87, WAS ASSASINATED LAST WEEK BY THE EXTREMIST GROUP CALLED POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES "FARABUNDO MARTI" (FPL). AGUIRRE Y SALINAS GOVERNED EL SALVADOR PROVISIONALLY FROM OCTOBER 21, 1944, UNTIL MARCH 1, 1945, WHEN HE TURNED THE PRESIDENCY OVER TO GENERAL SALVADOR CASTANEDA CASTRO, WHO HAD WON THAT YEAR'S ELECTIONS.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE," SAID ROMERO IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS." ON THE CONTRARY, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE OUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IS

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DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE DIFFERENT SECTORS THAT MAKE UP OUR SOCIETY." UP TILL NOW, SAID THE SALVADORAN PRESIDENT, AND "IN SPITE OF THE FEW DAYS IN WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN OPERATING, WE HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH MOST OF THE NATION'S REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS. WE HAVE TALKED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC), MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND, ABOVE ALL, WE HAVE MET IN A SPECIAL WAY WITH CHURCH

REPRESENTATIVES, WHOM I HAVE TOLD MORE THAN ONCE THAT THE IMAGE OF ME WHICH WAS BEING PROJECTED TO THE CHURCH WAS NOT TRUE." PRESIDENT ROMERO CLAIMS TO HAVE TOLD THE CHURCHMEN, "THIS I WILL PROVE TO YOU WITH DEEDS."

THE GROUP SELECTED BY EL SALVADOR'S RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO WAS HEADED BY CESAR JEREZ, CENTRAL AMERICAN JESUIT PROVINCIAL, AND CRISTOBAL CORTEZ, CHANCELLOR OF SAN SALVADOR'S ARCHBISHOPRIC.

PRESIDENT ROMERO CITED AS PROOF THAT THERE IS NO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CHURCH THE FACT THAT DURING THAT MEETING HE TURNED OVER HALF A MILLION COLONES (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) AS PART OF THE SUBSIDY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES ANNUALLY FOR OPERATION OF THE JOSE SIMEON CANAS CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA), DIRECTED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE JESUITS.

GENERAL ROMERO'S CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE IS RELATED TO A THREAT MADE BY A FAR-RIGHT ORGANIZATION TO KILL ALL JESUITS IN EL SALVADOR UNLESS THEY GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY BY THURSDAY. "THE EXECUTION WILL BE IMMEDIATE AND SYSTEMATIC," ACCORDING TO THE WHITE WARRIORS' UNION (UGB) COMMUNIQUE. THE GROUP HAS ALREADY CLAIMED SEVERAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE CHURCH, INCLUDING THE MURDER OF THE PARI PRIEST ALFONSO MAVARRI IVIEDO AND ALFREDO TORRES, A 14-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO WAS WITH THE PRIEST AT THE TIME.

IN REPLY, JESUITS ASSERT THAT THEY "WILL NOT LEAVE EL SALVADOR UNLESS WE ARE PHYSICALLY WIPE OUT." PRESIDENT ROMERO RESTATED UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTS OF HIS SWEARING-IN MESSAGE GIVEN JULY 1. "MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS OF ANY KIND WITH ANYBODY; BUT IT WILL EXERCISE WITH VIGOR SOCIETY'S LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN PEACE AND HARMONY AMONG ITS PEOPLE."

THE PRESIDENT EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE UGB, WITH WHICH IT HAS BEEN SAID TO BE ASSOCIATED THROUGH RETIRED ARMY OFFICERS LINKED WITH GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES. "THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL," HE SAID, "ACT TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF OUR CITIZENRY WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL FREEDOMS CONSECRATED IN THE CONSTITUTION."

EL SALVADOR, WITH A POPULATION OF NEARLY FIVE MILLION IN AROUND 24 THOUSAND SQUARE KILOMETERS, CONFRONTS SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS, LOCATED PRINCIPALLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL ZONE WHERE SOCIAL DISEQUILIBRIUM IS VERY PRONOUNCED. TRADITIONALLY GROUPS IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES OVER THESE PROBLEMS AND ATTEMPT TO USE THEM AS A PARTISAN RALLYING FLAG TO DEMAND AGRARIAN REFORM.

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY RESTS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE ORIGINATED IN

THE PRODUCTION OF COFFEE, COTTON AND SUGAR. THE FARMER RESENTS

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING AND CHARGES THAT THE MINIMUM WAGE,
FOUR COLONES SIXTY CENTS (NEARLY TWO DOLLARS) DOES NOT ALLOW
HIM TO SATISFY THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE. NONETHELESS PRESIDENT
ROMERO SAID THAT THIS SITUATION IS BEING REVIEWED "IN SEARCH OF
BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE FARMER." PRESIDENT ROMERO
EMPHASIZED HIS CONVICTION THAT "ONLY THROUGH DIRECT DISCUSSIONS
WITH INTERESTED GROUPS CAN WE ACHIEVE THE GOALS IMPOSED BY OUR
PROBLEMS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
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